

We wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS DISASTER  
RELIEF

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 5, 2017*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge this body to send urgent aid to the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and all of our Caribbean neighbors in its federal response to this year's devastating hurricane season.

Hurricanes Harvey, Jose, Irma and now Maria have ravaged our southern border, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and our friends and neighbors in the Caribbean.

Sadly, the pace of federal response in the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico has been much too slow.

Nearly three weeks after Hurricane Irma, a category 5 hurricane, decimated the Virgin Islands, residents are still having trouble receiving appropriate aid and commodities.

Now, nearly two weeks after another category 5 storm tore through St. Croix, the U.S. Virgin Islands' three main islands have lost its economy, its physical infrastructure and scores of its people.

Insufficient quantities of food and supplies, lack of power, extremely long fuel lines, and lack of communication and cell phone coverage have left the Virgin Islands utterly decimated.

The Virgin Islands are in a humanitarian crisis, Mr. Speaker. No American citizen should be forced to endure these conditions, especially not with the level of resources at the disposal of our federal government.

My heart breaks for these families. I urge my colleagues and the Trump Administration to fund all necessary resources not only to address the urgent humanitarian crisis but also the sustained commitment support funding necessary to help rebuild and restore infrastructure necessary for their economy and people to move forward.

IN CELEBRATION OF 25 YEARS OF  
THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN'S  
WILLIAM DAVIDSON INSTITUTE

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 5, 2017*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate 25 years of the University of Michigan's William Davidson Institute (WDI). The Institute has helped shape businesses and social welfare through its distinguished international service and education.

In 1992, Guardian Industries, an international manufacturer of glass products, determined the importance of establishing an educational institute to contribute to the economic transformation that was occurring throughout the world as new market economies began to develop in previously socialist countries. They named it in honor of then Guardian Industries Chairman, President and CEO, William Davidson. Mr. Davidson envisioned a world class in-

stitute that helps "forge a path for those responsible for economic change in emerging markets." Since its founding, the William Davidson Institute has cultivated a repository of methods and resources for creating a market economy that is unmatched in its breadth and depth. From economic education to increased access to healthcare, WDI works with countries and world leaders to analyze specific areas of need and to institute change.

The Institute's main initiatives include education, financial sector development, health care, performance measurement and scaling impact. Staff at the William Davidson Institute work alongside businesses, government agencies and other academic institutions to implement initiative-based programs and economic change. Programs run by the Institute include: operating a community college initiative in Jordan that fosters business skills and vocational coursework, assessing equipment needed for a new hotel in Ethiopia, instituting wireless telecommunication service in rural communities in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, and upgrading the University of Liberia's accounting program to meet international education standards. The institute also serves as a partner to other international programs, including Goldman Sachs' 10,000 Women Program that helps underprivileged women in Rwanda grow their self-owned small businesses. Over the past 25 years, the William Davidson Institute has been a global leader in international economic development and social freedom. I know this Institute will continue to effect meaningful change in countries across the world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the William Davidson Institute on its 25th anniversary. The Institute has been instrumental in growing economies and empowering business leaders internationally.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNI-  
VERSARY OF LUZERNE COUNTY  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**HON. LOU BARLETTA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 5, 2017*

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to help commemorate the 50th anniversary of Luzerne County Community College. The College was founded in 1967 with just two buildings in Wilkes-Barre and 836 students, and has since become the largest college in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

As a student-centered learning institution, Luzerne County Community College gives students the tools they need to meet the world's most daunting challenges through practical access to real-world skills, classroom diversity that embodies the human experience, and quality teacher-student contact.

Seven years after its founding, the College moved to a permanent 122-acre campus in Nanticoke, which provided the necessary space to handle the increasing student population. Since 1974, the College has continued to expand its offerings to underserved areas throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania. It opened up sites in Hazleton, Berwick, Shamokin, Kulpmont, and downtown Wilkes-Barre. In 2008, Luzerne County Community College opened its Public Safety Training In-

stitute. Two years later, the College expanded its main campus into downtown Nanticoke by opening the Joseph A. Paglianite Culinary Institute. The following year, it opened the Francis S. and Mary Gill Carroza, R.N. Health Sciences Center.

Currently, the Luzerne County Community College offers 82 occupational programs, 24 liberal arts and transfer programs, and 10 credit-free career training programs. As of today, the College boasts more than 32,000 degree-holding alumni.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Luzerne County Community College as it celebrates its 50th anniversary. On behalf of a grateful community, I wish to thank the College, its faculty, and its staff for their tireless service to the community and unwavering commitment to accessible education.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON  
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR  
2018

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 4, 2017*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 71) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2018 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2019 through 2027:

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of the Democratic Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to H. Con. Res. 27, the House Republicans' Congressional Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2018.

Mr. Chair, House Republican budgeteers have a very poor track record when it comes to economic forecasts and projections.

For years, they have based their entire legislative agenda and strategy on their belief that the Affordable Care Act or Obamacare would be a failure.

The wish was father to the thought and they were wrong.

Because of Obamacare more than 20 million Americans now know the peace of mind that comes from affordable, quality health insurance that is there when you need it.

House Republicans oppose increasing the minimum wage, claiming that it costs jobs.

Wrong again.

Every increase in the minimum wage has been accompanied by an expanding economy, especially during the Clinton Administration.

House Republicans opposing comprehensive immigration reform claim that it will lead to lower incomes and lost jobs.

Wrong again.

Studies conducted by groups as far apart as the Chamber of Commerce and the AFL-CIO consistently show that comprehensive immigration reform will grow the Gross Domestic Product by \$1.5 trillion over 10 years.

Given this sorry track record of economic forecasting, it is mind-boggling that anyone could support another Republican budget that favors the wealthy over middle class families and those struggling to enter or remain in the middle class.